

The [week of energy summits](#) is here and there are a number of articles that are worth a read with regard to the cap-and-tax climate change legislation currently pending in Congress:

*Shelbyville News:* " [Burton, Pence lead fight over cap and trade](#) "

*Pence, the House Republican Conference chairman, said the legislation intended to reduce greenhouse gases "amounts to an economic declaration of war on the Midwest by liberals in Washington, D.C., and it must be opposed."*

*Pence, R-Columbus, referred to the measure as "cap-and-tax" legislation and a "national energy tax."*

*"I make this case because the very nature of the cap-and-trade legislation is to essentially raise the costs on the creation of energy that uses traditional fossil fuels," Pence said. "And in the Midwest, particularly with regard to coal-burning power plants, we rely in places like Indiana and Michigan and Ohio and Wisconsin so heavily on coal-burning power plants that it will be small business owners, family farmers and households across the Midwest that will bare the heaviest burden of this cap-and-tax legislation, if it should become law."*

*Pence said House Republicans would offer an alternative energy proposal similar to a measure, the American Energy Act, that the GOP offered last summer when gas prices were soaring. That measure called for more domestic exploration, more conservation and alternative sources of energy, including wind, solar and nuclear.*

*"We're currently working to piece together what we're calling the American Energy Act 2.0 and it will include all of those strategies, plus a heavy emphasis on clean-coal technology and creating incentives where we can reduce greenhouse gases, not with a national energy tax, but with a the kind of incentives that will promote new technologies," Pence said, adding the legislation will be unveiled sometime next month.*

*Indianapolis Star:* " [Indiana has big stake in climate-change legislation](#) "

*"The Democrats' climate-change legislation amounts to an economic declaration of war on the Midwest by liberals in Washington, D.C.," said Rep. Mike Pence, a leader of the House GOP effort to defeat a bill that would cap emissions and require the use of more renewable electricity...*

*..The bill, a priority for President Barack Obama, is the most ambitious attempt by Congress to address global warming and energy independence.*

*But lawmakers' ability to get a bill through Congress is uncertain; it depends in large part on how it's viewed in Indiana and other states dependent on coal and other fossil fuels. Those lawmakers don't want to add to their constituents' economic hardships.*

*Indiana residents and businesses long have enjoyed some of the lowest electricity rates in the nation -- about 20 percent lower than the national average -- because of the state's reliance on relatively cheap coal. More than 90 percent of the power consumed in Indiana is generated by coal, which sends more heat-trapping carbon dioxide into the atmosphere for the amount of energy produced than any other energy source.*

*The House bill would cap carbon emissions and require power plants, oil refineries and manufacturers to obtain pollution allowances. Polluters could buy or sell allowances to meet the new limits.*

*Chicago Tribune:* " [GOP group criticizes climate bill](#) "

*Rep. Mike Pence, R-Ind., who is chairman of the House Republican Conference and the American Energy Solutions Group, says a cap and trade feature in which pollution permits could be traded on the open market won't work.*

*Instead, he favors a plan which he says would make America energy independent by developing domestic gas, coal and oil reserves; developing solar and wind projects, increasing conservation and using new technologies to store or use carbon dioxide.*